Amount spent for the promotion of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

202 SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for promotion of Tourism an Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; year-wise and district-wise?

(b) the details of the work undertaken,

(c) the time by which the work would be completed, and

(d) the details of the plans for the current year for the above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) Development and promotion of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments However, the Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for development and promotion of tourism to various States on specific schemes, based on their merit, availability of funds and inter-se-priority The financial assistance is provided State-wise and not district-wise. During the last three years General Financial assistance amounting to Rs 167 74 lakhs was released to Andhra Pradesh and Rs 229 08 lakhs to Uttar Pradesh

(b) and (c) The financial assistance is provided on the strengthening of tourism infrastructure which comprises construction of wayside amenities, tourist complexes, equipment for water sports, production of quality publicity material etc Responsibility for undertaking the job mainly rests with the State Governments.

(d) Projects at an estimated cost of Rs 1 05 lakhs in Andhra Pradesh and Rs 3 30 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh have been prioritised for assistance during the current year.

Opportunity to Athletes and Sports Persons Employed in the Railways

203 SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government propose to give to the outstanding athletes and sports persons employed in the Ministry the opportunity and facilities for training youngsters in athletics and sports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): Yes Sir Such a scheme already exists

Rules for cancellation of tickets and refund of fares

204 SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Deccan Herald", dated the 8th September 1990 under the caption "Railway refund rules cause hardship to commuters"; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that New Railway Rules for cancellation of tickets and refund of fares continue to cause hardships to travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS).

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The new Rules for cancellation of tickets and refund of fares in force from 1-9-1990 are simplification over the earlier rules and are expected to give relief to the travelling public